

STATEMENT OF R. L. SENKEL, DETECTIVE  
RE: PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION

Reported on duty at 9:00 AM, November 22, 1963, the Homicide and Robbery Office, Dallas Police Department, Room 317. Talked with my partner Det. F. M. Turner, also Dets. Sims and Boyd. Capt. J. W. Fritz advised Det. Turner and I would report to Deputy Chief Lumpkin for assignment. Det. Turner and I had been issued beige colored label pins for identification. These were issued by Deputy Chief Stevenson on November 21, 1963. Deputy Chief Stevenson also showed us a complete list of identification badges and pins that would be used by all officers and members of the press. I secured a typewritten list of these items of identification.

9:30 AM, November 22, 1963, checked with Deputy Chief Lumpkin's Office, was advised that Deputy Chief Lumpkin was out at that time. Det. Turner and I returned to our office, and at about 9:40 AM, November 22, 1963, I received a call that Deputy Chief Lumpkin had returned and would meet Turner and me in the City Hall basement parking lot in 10 minutes.

9:50 AM, November 22, 1963, Det. Turner and I met Deputy Chief Lumpkin and another man that was with him. I believe his name was Weidmeyer. The four of us drove to Love Field, arriving there around 10:30 AM. We drove the route that the motorcade would follow. Deputy Chief Lumpkin explained that we would be driving ahead of the motorcade about a half-mile. That we would look for any obstruction, or anything that might endanger the motorcade.

We waited at Love Field and saw both planes land. I saw the Presidential Party leave the plane. Deputy Chief Lumpkin told us there would be a Secret

Service agent riding with us from Love Field. We left Love Field ahead of the motorcade. Deputy Chief Lumpkin driving, Det. Turner in front right seat. I was sitting in left rear seat, the Army Officer in center, and the Secret Service agent in right rear seat. Det. Turner checked radio contact with Chief Curry, who was leading the motorcade, and the dispatcher. We proceeded down the route to downtown, maintaining periodic checks by radio with Chief Curry. We turned off Main Street onto Houston Street, and I could see the motorcade at about Akard Street at this time. This was about 7 blocks behind us. We proceeded on Houston Street to Elm Street and then to the Stemmons Expressway. We were on Stemmons Expressway, nearing Oak Lawn Avenue when we learned of the shooting. The motorcade passed us on the service road near Oak Lawn Avenue. We followed the motorcade to Parkland Hospital. Saw the victims taken into the hospital. Left Parkland at about 12:45 PM, November 22, 1963. Had additional passenger, Forrest Sorrels, U. S. Secret Service. We proceeded to scene of the shooting. Arrived at the Texas School Book Depository, Houston and Elm Street, at about 12:50 PM, November 22, 1963. I met Deputy Sheriff Harry Weatherford at rear door. Weatherford and I entered building and proceeded to check building from ground floor upward. I got to the sixth floor about 1:10 PM. The empty shells were found at window about 1:15 PM. Capt. Fritz, Dets. Sims and Boyd were present at this time. Capt. Fritz advised me to take the employees that had been on the sixth floor to the City Hall for statements. Officer C. W. Brown stated he had a car and would drive me to City Hall. Brown and I left the Texas School Book Depository with witnesses William H. Shelly, Bonnie Ray Williams, and Danny Garcia Arce (See affidavits).

Officer Brown and I arrived at Room 317, City Hall, at about 1:50 PM, November 22, 1963. I was in process of taking an affidavit from Bonnie Ray Williams when the uniform officers brought in a white male that they said killed Officer Tippit. I later learned the arrested subject was Lee Harvey Oswald. Shelly, Williams and Arce told us that Oswald was an employee of the Texas School Book Depository. Officer C. W. Brown talked to Capt. Fritz in my presence and advised him of Oswald's arrest. I completed the taking of the affidavit from Williams. This was at about 2:30 PM, November 22, 1963.

Capt. Fritz advised Det. W. E. Potts and me to proceed to 1026 North Beckley and search the room occupied by one Lee Harvey Oswald. Lt. E. L. Cunningham went with Det. Potts and me to this address. We contacted Mrs. Earlene Roberts, the landlady, and Mrs. A. C. Johnson. Checked registration book and did not find name of Lee Harvey Oswald, or name Hidell. Mrs. Johnson stated they had 17 rooms with 16 occupied. This was 3:00 PM, November 22, 1963. I called Det. T. L. Baker at City Hall, and he advised that he was sending out a Search Warrant. While we were waiting for the Search Warrant, the television was on, and a picture of Lee Harvey Oswald was put on the screen. Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Roberts recognized him as O. E. Lee, a tenant, and directed us to his room. There was no number on this room, just the designation O, This being a small room off the living room of this large rooming house. We found that Lee Harvey Oswald had rented the room on October 14, 1963, and used the name O. E. Lee and still had the room rented, paying \$8.00 per week. We waited until Justice of the Peace David L. Johnston, arrived with Det. Turner, and Det. H. M. Moore. The Search Warrant was shown to the owner of the house, and a search was made of the room occupied by Lee Oswald.

There was a City of Dallas map found, a leather holster, an address book with the name of Lee Harvey Oswald in it, numerous letters with his name on them, clothes, shoes, shaving kit, a paper back book entitled, "A Study of the U. S. S. R. and Communism", a pair of binoculars, several pamphlets, and handbills for the "Fair Play for Cuba", Undesirable Discharge from Marine Corps for Lee Harvey Oswald. This property was all taken to Room 317, City Hall.

I was in the process of looking through this property in Room 317, City Hall at about 7:00 PM, November 22, 1963, when I was advised by Capt. J. W. Fritz to talk to Mrs. Marina Oswald, wife of Lee Harvey Oswald. I talked to her in the presence of Mrs. Ruth Paine in Room 316, City Hall. With Mrs. Paine as interpreter, I took an affidavit from Marina Oswald. Miss Mary Eattan was the Notary and was present when a Mr. J. A. Brourantus and Mrs. Ruth Paine translated the affidavit. Det. J. P. Adamcik was also present. These persons, with the exception of Mary Eattan, were also present when the rifle found at the scene of the shooting was shown to Mrs. Marina Oswald. See her affidavit for her comments on the rifle.

On November 23, 1963 I talked to Mr. Joe Molina. See statement for information on him. He could not shed any light on Oswald's activity as he was not in close contact with Oswald during the day of November 22, 1963.

November 23, 1963 at 2:15 PM I was on stage in show up room when show up was held with #1 John Thurman Horn, #2 David Knapp, #3 Lee Harvey Oswald, #4 Daniel Lujan. I could not see into Assembly Room to see who was viewing the show up. I did recognize Det. J. R. Leavelle's voice, did not see him.

November 24, 1963 I came on duty at 12:00 Noon. I was returning from church services when I heard on a news broadcast that Lee Harvey Oswald had been shot. This was at 11:30 AM. I took my family home and reported for duty at 12:00 Noon. I was present when Jack Ruby was taken to Capt. Frits's office at about 1:00 PM. I talked to Lts. Swain and Smart and listed property that they had taken from Jack Ruby's car. I went with Det. Turner and Lt. Swain and placed this property in Police Property Room. William F. Alexander of the Dallas District Attorney's office was also with us at the 1026 North Beckley address at time search warrant was executed.